

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

RSC-01 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15

PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /230 W
----- 074222

R 271212Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5592
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY BANJUL POUCH
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN POUCH
AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
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AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SUVA POUCH
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 4305

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD XA EEC
SUBJ: EC NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATED,
COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLE AND OTHER ELIGIBLE STATES: SECOND
SESSION OF THE PRE-NEGOTIATION CONFERENCE (JULY 26) -- THE
LDC RESPONSE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 4255

1. SUMMARY. AT THE SECOND AND FINAL SESSION OF THE PRE-
NEGOTIATION CONFERENCE THE ELIGIBLE LDC COUNTRIES RESPONDED
TO THE COMMUNITY DECLARATION OF JULY 25 (SEE REFTEL). THE
RESPONSE WAS IN THE FORM OF SPEECHES BY NIGERIAN
TRADE COMMISSIONER BRIGGS FOR THE AFRICAN STATES,
THE GUYANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAMPHAL FOR THE
CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES AND PRIME MINISTER MARA OF
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FIJI FOR THE PACIFIC COUNTRIES. LOUD AND CLEAR
IN ALL THREE SPEECHES WAS A REJECTION OF TRADE
RECIPROCITY IN THE FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN
THESE COUNTRIES AND THE COMMUNITY. AT THE END OF
OF THE SESSION, ALL PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT THE
NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD OPEN ON OCTOBER 17 AT THE
MINISTERIAL LEVEL AND THAT THE GOAL SHOULD BE
COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND ALL NECESSARY

RATIFICATIONS PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 1, 1975. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SECOND SESSION OF THE PRE-NEGOTIATION CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATED, COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLE AND OTHER ELIGIBLE STATES WAS DEVOTED TO A RESPONSE TO THE EC DECLARATION DELIVERED ON JULY 25 (REFTEL). NIGERIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER BRIGGS, SPEAKING FOR THE AFRICAN STATES, STATED THAT AFRICA INTENDED TO CALL INTO QUESTION THE PRESENT PATTERN OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERICAL AND FINANCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - A PATTERN WHICH WAS NOT CONDUCIVE TO LDC DEVELOPMENT. HE THEN SPELLED OUT THE EIGHT PRINCIPLES AGREED TO AT THE OAU SUMMIT WITH REGARD TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EC, E.G., NON-RECIPROCITY IN TRADE AND TARIFF CONCESSIONS GIVEN BY THE EC; DISASSOCIATION OF EC FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID FROM ANY PARTICULAR FORM OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EC; FREE AND ASSURED ACCESS TO EC MARKETS FOR ALL AFRICAN PRODUCTS INCLUDING PROCESSED AND SEMI-PROCESSED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE SUBJECT TO THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY OF THE EC; THE GUARANTEEING TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES OF STABILITY, EQUITABLE AND REMUNERATIVE PRICES IN EC MARKETS FOR THEIR MAIN PRODUCTS IN ORDER TO ALLOW THEM TO INCREASE THEIR EXPORT EARNINGS. BRIGGS SAID THAT THE AFRICANS BELIEVED THEIR REQUEST FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT COULD BE PUT IN A LEGAL FRAMEWORK CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS WAS THE OBLIGATION OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PARTICULARLY THE LEAST DEVELOPED, MOST OF WHICH, HE NOTED, ARE AFRICAN.

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3. SPEAKING FOR THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, GUYANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAMPHAL INTERPRETED THE EC DECLARATION AS INDICATING THAT THE EC IS NOT HIDEBOUND BY EXISTING STEREOTYPES BUT WILLING TO FORMULATE NEW MODELS OF RELATIONSHIP. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES HAD MANY RESERVATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE MODEL PUT FORWARD BY THE EC. HE MADE CLEAR THAT THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES
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HE EXPRESSED THE STRONG OPPOSITION OF THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TO THE INCORPORATION IN THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS OF ANYTHING ALONG THE LINES OF ARTICLE 3, PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE YAOUNDE CONVENTION. (THIS PARAGRAPH REQUIRED FREE ENTRY INTO THE ASSOCIATED STATES OF PRODUCTS ORIGINATING IN THE COMMUNITY.) RAPHAL THEN MADE SEVERAL POINTS SIMILAR TO THOSE MADE BY BRIGGS WHEN REITERATING THE PRINCIPLES AGREED AT THE OAU SUMMIT (SEE PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE).

4. FINALLY, PRIME MINISTER MARA OF FIJI, SPEAKING ALSO FOR TONGA AND WESTERN SAMOA, ECHOED HIS TWO COLLEAGUES BY STATING THAT "THE COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT MERELY SAY THAT IT DOES NOT SEEK REVERSE PREFERENCES.... IT SHOULD NOT SEEK RECIPROCAL FREE ENTRY INTO THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES, WHATEVER GUISE THIS MAY ASSUME IN ANY EVENTUAL ARRANGEMENTS." THIS WOULD, HE
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CONTINUED, BE A REVERSION TO THE TRADE PATTERN OF THE IMPERIAL AND COLONIAL PERIOD. MARA ALSO CHIDED THE COMMUNITY FOR NOT INCLUDING AMONG THE PRODUCTS POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS, COPRA AND OTHER COCONUT PRODUCTS WHICH ARE OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO THE ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES IN THE PACIFIC.

5. FOLLOWING THE THREE SPEECHES, THE PARTICIPANTS AGREED ON A NUMBER OF PROCEDURAL POINTS. AT THE REQUEST OF BRIGGS, SPEAKING FOR THE AFRICANS, THE EC AND OTHERS, AGREED TO POSTPONE THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL OCTOBER 17 IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PARTICIPANTS TO PREPARE THEIR NEGOTIATING POSITIONS. ALSO, IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATION OF BRIGGS, THE PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT

THE INITIAL SESSIONS SHOULD BE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL
AND THAT OTHER MINISTERIAL MEETINGS MIGHT BE CALLED AT
APPROPRIATE TIMES DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES.
BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THEY SHOULD SET AS THEIR GOAL THE
COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS AND ALL NECESSARY RATIFICATIONS
PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 1, 1975, I.E., AT THE EXPIRATION OF THE
PRESENT YAOUNDE ASSOCIATION. WITH THESE ISSUES SETTLED, THE
PRENEGOTIATION CONFERENCE WAS CLOSED.

6. COMMENT: THE CONFERENCE IS ONLY THE INITIAL ENCOUNTER IN
WHAT WILL BE A LONG AND HARD NEGOTIATING BATTLE. THE COMM-
UNITY IS STILL A GOOD DISTANCE FROM AN AGREED SUBSTANTIVE
POSITION. THIS WAS CLEAR IN THE COMMUNITY'S CAREFULLY WORDED
OPENING STATEMENT. THE EC EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO
CONSIDER THE IDEAS OF THE VARIOUS AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND
PACIFIC STATES. WHAT IT GOT WAS AN ABSOLUTELY CLEAR
REJECTION OF TRADE RECIPROCITY. HOW THE COMMUNITY REACTS
REMAINS TO BE SEEN. WE DO NOT EXPECT THE FRENCH TO ROLL
OVER AND PLAY DEAD ON THIS QUESTION BUT AT THE SAME TIME,
THE POSITION OF THE UK AND THOSE IN THE EC SEEKING
A CHANGE FROM THE PRESENT YAOUNDE-TYPE ARRANGEMENTS
HAS BEEN MARKEDLY STRENGTHENED. THERE WAS REMARKABLE
UNITY ON OTHER POINTS AS WELL IN THE STATEMENTS OF ALL
THE SPOKESMEN FOR THE LDC COUNTRIES REPRESENTED.
OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE
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ABILITY OF THE AFRICANS TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE AND
THEY HAVE NOTED ESPECIALLY THE SELF-RESTRAIN OF THE
FRANCOPHONES DURING THE CONFERENCE. THIS UNITY WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY BE TESTED IN THE MONTHS AHEAD IF SPECIFIC
NEGOTIATING POSITIONS ARE DEVELOPED.HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: ETRD, XA, EEC
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